

Docket No.: 1614.1389

Serial No. 10/788,487

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10-12 have been amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-5 and 7-11 are rejected.

Claims 6 and 12 are objected to.

Claims 1-12 are pending and under consideration.

ITEM 2: OBJECTION TO CLAIM 2

Claim 2 is amended and the foregoing adopts the Examiner's suggested correction to overcome the informality. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 2 is now free of the informality and the objection should be withdrawn.

ITEM 6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5 and 7-11 FOR OBVIOUSNESS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a) OVER LUFT ET AL. (U.S. PATENT 7,209,436);

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Luft discloses in col. 16, lines 62-64, that "The protecting channels of the inner ring are adjusted based on the working traffic switched from the outer ring". This constitutes merely a conventional technique, as disclosed in the present application (page 6, lines 6-32). In other words, in Luft, the concatenations on protecting channels of the inner ring are adjusted, based on main signals carried on the protecting channels. However, as described at page 6, line 34 – page 7, line 33, this method has a problem in that delay, due to concatenation setting, becomes large.

On the other hand, according to the claimed invention, concatenation setting for a protection line is performed using concatenation setting information obtained from a concatenation setting information table using an identifier, when a switching request is received, not when a main signal is received after the switching request goes around the network after a failure occurs. Luft does not suggest this feature recited in the amended independent claims 1 and 8.

Claims 1-2, 4 through 8, and 10-12 are amended, variously to improve form and for consistency with the respective, amended independent claims 1 and 7.

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CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the amended independent claims 1-7 as explained in the foregoing clearly, patentably distinguish over the reference and rejections of record. There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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